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Gen. O.O. Howard - Speeches for American Missionary (1869)

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American Missionary.

NEW YORK, JULY, 1869.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

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Anniversaries in New York are dying or dead. In Boston they "still live." Our readers will find an account elsewhere in this paper, of our recent meeting in the wide-awake capital of New England.

MR. DAVID MACRAE,

It was the pleasure of many of our readers, North and South, to make the acquaintance of this very intelligent Scotch gentleman during his visit last year to this country.

While here, he was much interested in the welfare of the Freedmen, and obtained extensive information respecting their character, wants, and prospects. To all who know him, and to others, it will be a gratification to read the account we give in another column of the presentation he has kindly made to ecclesiastical bodies in Scotland of the work of this Association among the Freedmen.

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mon brotherhood of man. See more of Mr. Langston's address in another column.

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At a meeting in behalf of this Association, held recently in Hartford, Ct., some interesting statements were made by Sec. Whipple and by the General himself in regard to the call of the latter to the head of the Freedmen's Bureau and to his experience before and since.

SEC. WHIPPLE'S REMARKS.

In May, 1861, General Butler issued his famous order relative to "contrabands," and in the fall of that year, the American Missionary Association held communication with General Butler, and soon after schools for the education of the Freedmen were established in Virginia. The work then spread as rapidly as our armies gained victories. Finally, in 1865, the Bureau bill passed in Congress, the Association using its strongest endeavors in that direction. The speaker then spoke of the difficulties which arose by the death of Mr. Lincoln and succession of Mr. Johnson. The latter on being approached, threw the whole responsibility on to the Secretary of war. Mr. Stanton was then seen: he was heartily in favor of it, and in a few days the Bureau was es-

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was the next speaker. He said that Dr. Bushnell's sermon on God's having a plan in every man's life, made a deep impression upon him, and he never read it but once—ever since, he had had the conviction that God had a plan in his life. When he was a boy, his father brought home a colored boy who became his companion, and he had thought that, in the providence of God, that association was the cause of his *want* of prejudice, which a good many people in the North do not feel. In college he encountered prejudices; and again in West Point, where there were many from the South, he met the strongest prejudices against the colored race, and, on that account at one time, nearly all the cadets refused to speak with him, because he had none of their prejudices.

After leaving West Point he was stationed in Florida, and he related some of his first experiences in that slave country. He received the impression there that Northern men who went to the South, and went back upon their education, became the hardest of slave owners. He gave an account of the scenes which occurred during the march of Sherman's army, the light wing of which he commanded. At Fayetteville, N. C., 8,500 refugees were turned off from the army column, two-thirds of whom were negroes. This was the time when the subject of establishing the Bureau was being discussed. When he arrived in Richmond with the army, he received a dispatch from Secretary Stanton to come to Washington at once. He went, and the secretary asked him if he would take charge of the Bureau, and intimated that it was Mr. Lincoln's request before he died, that he (Howard) should take that position. He had not then read the law; but he decided to accept. For five months the Bureau kept seventy-five thousand people in the South from starvation. One-third of these were whites. He spoke of the prejudices which had existed, and which

exist yet, concerning the colored people. In traveling from Washington to Maine in company with three colored men, he had to fight his way over every railroad line to get seats for the black men. The prejudices are, however, gradually breaking down.

RIGHT INSTITUTIONS THE GREAT WANT OF THE SOUTH.

A good deal of effort in the South, at the present time, is as barren of result as rain upon the sand. Institutions are the only permanent forces in society. Whatever fails of that is evanescent. Whitfield, vastly the superior of John Wesley, as an eloquent preacher, left only his name to the generations that survived him, Wesley, on the other hand, left the Methodist church.

Blaize Pascal, from his retreat at Port Royal, sent forth those letters against the Jesuits which set all Europe laughing and cursing in turn. But Pascal died, his letters were shelved as a curious antique, while the Jesuits as an institution survive, and carry their influence around the world.

And yet many think that itinerants rushing through the South, scattering books here and there, can save it. There could not be a more idle dream. When the men are out of sight, and the books are thrown aside, their influence is ended. Only institutions carry on the thoughts of men, and the lessons of books, and repeat them from generation to generation.

It is vain, therefore, to think of correcting the public sentiment of the South by any process that does not flower into institutions. The trouble with most Southerners now, is that their institutions are leading them astray. The church, the school, and the press, which, in the main, create and control public sentiment, are wrong in their moral instructions. The pulpit brought the sanctions of religion to human chattelhood, and is responsible for the madness of the Southern people on

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American Missionary.

VOL. XIII.

AUGUST, 1869.

NO. 8.

AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

FREEDMEN.

AN APOLOGY.

We regret our inability to give, in this number, the engraving which we partially promised in our last, of the new building in process of erection for the "Hampton Normal and Industrial school." It has been found impossible to have it prepared in season.

HIGHER EDUCATION FOR FREEDMEN.

NORMAL SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY.

THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY of this institution was held in the Congregational Church, Washington, D. C., Wednesday Evening, June 30th.

The programme of exercises, which was full, was happily carried out, by speeches and essays from persons in the several departments, the Normal, Preparatory, Agricultural, Collegiate, Medical, and the Law.

After Prayer by Rev. Edwin Monroe, and the singing of the "The Polar Star," Gen. O. O. Howard made an address which we give, somewhat abridged.

ADDRESS OF GENERAL O. O. HOWARD.

In this eventful age wherein there has been the "new birth of freedom" for our people, at the sight of which, or at the good tidings, other nations rejoice, men are watching for and expecting continued renewals of Divine favor. Our earnest and true men have traced this favor in the sudden providential changes that have followed emancipation. First, the dark multitude is pressing forward to demand the exercise of rights of free labor. Next, they rush, by a common impulse, as witnesses to the law courts. Again, the cry of "citizen" is heard everywhere, far and near, and citizenship is firmly claimed, and at last the throng is grasping civil patronage, and the host not pressing even the threshold of the throne for office.

INSPIRATION FOR KNOWLEDGE.

Amidst all the changes consequent upon these upheavings of society, there has been evident to a careful observer a remarkable spirit in common throughout all these States, traceable in nearly every phase of human life, an almost universal inspiration which exhibits itself in a thirst for knowledge. We behold at the end of four short years since the war, upward of two hundred thousand of the offspring of slaves at school daily. In the several States that were slave we find them in the common, and primary, the grammar, and high schools, academics, colleges, and universities; and here at Washington, fellow-citizens, on the most prominent of your most beautiful hills, is an institution, claiming, it may be, at this moment pretentiously, the name of UNIVERSITY. Slaves shall become freedmen, and freedmen are sending sons and daughters from different parts of the country to this institution; a generous public is endowing it, while it is slowly and surely unfolding its plan. Here is the preparatory department—scholars are studying Algebra, Latin, and Greek; here the normal scholars are preparing to teach; here in the law department, young men are mastering Blackstone and Kent; and here also is the medical department in full force, all its singular mysteries unveiling. Of the forty daily visitors a few laugh or sneer and say it is only a school. Why so high sounding a name? A University, indeed! Our answer is brief. Rome had its beginning; the saucy boy who jumped the wall in derision did not prevent the future greatness of the city so broadly planned. True, indeed, our University is just beginning; its buildings are not quite completed; its primary departments but slowly pushing up their pupils; the College hardly organized; the law and medical divisions only two terms in progress, with limited numbers and resources. Our agricultural features consist in practical labor and simple teaching, our library is yet small, and our cabinet just begun, yet the found-

ation is laid. We have builded upon a charter as broad as humanity. The filling up—the completion of the plan is as sure as anything human can be, and God is evidently blessing it.

FUNDAMENTAL IDEAS.

This institution has two distinctive fundamental ideas. One is that embracing those who have been generally repelled and excluded, it embraces them, it holds out its lamp to every color and description of mankind, simply asking mental and moral fitness. The second idea is that the brother and sister need not part at the college door, both have a right, if they so choose, to a knowledge of the professions.

OPPOSITION.

We meet and must meet like other new enterprises, a twofold opposition, misrepresentation and misunderstanding. Now the assault is upon our pupils; now upon the brick. Some of our professors are refused admission into the Medical Society of this District. The character of the trustees, officers, teachers, and pupils is widely traduced. Plots are laid to destroy us materially, and gigantic efforts are put forth to bring the ire of an indignant nation against us under the imputed name of "leveling" and "amalgamation." It is said among certain learned men that there is a singular dream prevailing in this country at this time—the "dream of equality." This dream is imputed to us. The imputers are not wise, for it is they that are dreaming while wrapped in the troublous slumbers of age. Were they fully awake they would know that we fully believe in positive inequality—in personal differences, in the mountains, the hills, and the valleys. Yet there are rights, such as breathing and thinking and working, which belong to all. There are rights which the proud earthy dignitary must share equally with the poorest of us, and not the least of these, is the right to make the most of the faculties God has given us. I think the honest expression of this imputed dreaming is this: "A white skin furnishes evidence of superior intellect." If he will thus state his proposition plainly we will meet it. Let him do as one of my good friends from the South did, sit a few hours with his ears and his eyes open in one of our good schools, the University if you please, and he will be convinced of his error, and, if a candid man, be prepared to join me in the less prejudiced, truer, nobler expression, that the intellect is not measured or weighed by the complexion; and perhaps he may say with spirit, as Peter did when his eyes were opened, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons."

he that feareth Him and worketh righteousness is accepted with Him."

SELF CONSECRATION NEEDED.

Let me now say to my fellow workers, the professors and teachers in the different departments, our measure of success depends on you. You have been hitherto patient, self-sacrificing workers in our humble beginnings; you have given great satisfaction to the trustees. But we need more than usual self-consecration. For years, perhaps for life, you must work in faith, in hope, in prayer. By a prejudiced community, and by the tremulous, hoping hearts of your pupils, your words, your acts—your very looks are watched. In treading new paths there is safety and success in only one course—

To love with pure affections deep
All creatures great and small,
And still a stronger love to bear
To Him who made them all.

As you know our needs are many, our dangers peculiar, may God give us all the spirit of prayer that we may draw from Him choice blessings—and that He will grant us His specific aid in our endowments, abundant success in teaching, a thoroughly Christian institution—a garden of civilization whence shall flow streams clear as crystal, pure and healthful, like living springs. Let us never, my fellow-laborers, teachers, and pupils, never depart from a simple child-like dependence on God, while we make bold to ask for the largest gifts.

We should like to give entire, the address of FURMAN J. SHADD, a boy of 16, but our space forbids. It was received with enthusiastic applause. The subject was

"FOUR MEN OF OUR TIMES."

For the "persevering man," he took "Fred. Douglass." "Born a chattel," he struggled up, against fearful odds to a noble manhood, and stood at length "among the most eloquent and gifted of American orators."

For "the enterprising man," he illustrated his idea by stating characteristic incidents in the life of Horace Greely.

The "victorious man," is evidently Gen. Grant, "whose history is learned from the history of Forts Henry and Donaldson, of Vicksburg, Richmond and the White House, Washington."

The last, "The Christian Soldier," we give entire.

From the South Carolina Republican.

AVERY INSTITUTE, CHARLESTON, S. C.

THE CLOSING EXERCISES

of the Avery Institute were held in the Chapel of the school building on Bull street on Thursday, the 24th inst., and were largely attended by the friends and patrons of the school. Mr. Cardozo, the former Principal, and Rev. T. W. Lewis were among the visitors, and made remarks. The exercises partook of the nature of an exhibition, and received the warmest commendation from all present.

THE PROGRAMME OF EXERCISES.

1. Devotion; 2. Song—Marching On; 3. Declamation—I'll find a way to make it—Wm. Dart; 4. Singing—Joy to the World; 5. Declamation—Woodman Spare that Tree; 6. Singing—The Schwabian's Song of Home; 7. Reading—What Mrs. Caudle said to Mr. C.; 8. Song—Be kind to Whom?—by School No. 5; 9. Declamation—Why I went to London—John Newton; 10. Declamation—Cicero's Invective against Cataline—Peter Hesel; 11. Recitation—My Dress, by Elizabeth Ball; 12. Semi-chorus—Merrily; 13. Recitation—Flower of Liberty—Pauline Johnson; 14. Singing—Shout for Joy—School No. 1; 15. Little Boy that Died—Recitation by First Class of School No. 5; 16. Prayer—Adelaide Martyn; 17. Semi-chorus—Lo! the East; 18. Declamation—Bernardo del Carpio—Wm. G. Seymour; 19. Declamation—Temperance—Willie Edwards; 20. The Berry Girl—Mary Matthews; 21. Declamation—How Cyrus Laid the Cable; 22. We Love the Truth—Moses Brewer, Melvin Prove, Joseph Matthews; 23. How we Play on the Big Bass Drum, etc.; 24. Maud Muller—Concert Recitation by Pupils of 1st Class in Advanced Department of Girls; 25. Chant—Come to Me—School; 26. Declamation—France—James Conyers; 27. Declamation—Pacific Railroad—Thos. McLean; 28. Song—What is Home without a Mother? 29. Recitation—Laus Deo—Mary Matthews; 30. Duet—Jesus, Lover of my Soul—Josephine Scott, Martha Savage.

THE NEXT SCHOOL TERM

begins 1st October. No primary scholars are received, the design being to establish a High and Normal School. A great work has already been done. One class has finished Arithmetic and commenced Algebra. Other classes are nearly finishing Arithmetic. Additional classes in Algebra, Latin, and Book-keeping will be

next to impossible to starve a genuine Yankee. Give him but a jack-knife and a shingle, and he will whittle out something to sell. Place him on a desolate rock in the ocean and he will soon open communication with the nations. Ralph Emerson has said of the genuine Puritan stock that they are like a cat, which when she falls, manages to light on her feet. Send such on a mission and they will make success of what they undertake. But it is a melancholy truth that the religion of some does not bear transportation. Of this, many a Western emigrant has been a sad example. Many who years ago crossed the plains to reap a golden harvest have made a shipwreck of their Christian hopes. The trial was too great; the tide was too strong. Many a hopeful man went into the army and came out a mere wreck; but that was not true of every one. Some came forth from the war without the smell of fire upon their person. The furnace was heated seven times hotter than was wont yet they came forth from the furnace purer than when they entered it. This was caused by the presence of a fourth person, one like unto the Son of Man who quenched the violence of the fire. They ceased not to pray and to do their duty as Christian men. In eternity, many will rise up to call them blessed. Such was the hero of Fair Oaks, Second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville. Such was the character of the man who took command of the right wing of General Sherman's grand army on his way from Atlanta to the sea. Then comes the great fight of the one armed general in the cause of freedom, and to secure right to the poor. The end let us pray, that it may not come until the colored men have their rights, and every man sit under his own vine and fig tree, and there be none to molest or make afraid."

The regular exercises having been closed, the honorary degree of M. D. was conferred upon Alex. T. Augusta.

General Howard announced that a copy of the Holy Scriptures would be presented to the Howard Lyceum by the ladies of the Evangelical Association; the audience was invited to repair to Union League hall, where, after music and prayer, Miss Sophia Lewis, on behalf of the Evangelical Association, presented to the Howard Lyceum a finely embossed copy of the Holy Scriptures.

A neat address was made by Miss Lewis, and a suitable response by Mr. Alfred M. Greene, after which the vast assemblage adjourned.

American Missionary.

VOL. XIII.

SEPTEMBER, 1869.

NO. 9.

AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

FREEDMEN.

From the Independent.

THE BLACK SCHOLAR.

BY MAJOR GENERAL O. O. HOWARD.

WASHINGTON, JULY 27th, 1869.

My dear Sir,

In answer to your inquiry as to "what has been done, and is doing for the education,—moral and intellectual,—of the colored people of the South," I must go somewhat into detail and I know of no more satisfactory way, than by comparing their former with their present condition.

After centuries of servitude, dependence, and consequent ignorance, being deprived under the system of slavery of any educational advantages, or knowledge of transacting ordinary business, beyond what was necessary to fit them to be driven to their daily toil; these degraded people, more than 4,000,000 in number, were thrown by the war upon their own resources in the midst of their former owners. These owners were mortified and disappointed at the result of the conflict, and embittered against them, because they had been released from bondage and were no longer under their control.

This bitterness was greatly intensified by the belief that seemed to pervade the whites, that inasmuch as the Government had emancipated the colored

people it was the intention to enforce utterly distasteful social changes.

Under this condition of affairs, with the old labor system broken up, with no institution of learning open to them, or asylums for the indigent and helpless, the Freedmen became necessarily the wards of the Government, and this unfortunately when we were burdened by an unparalleled national debt, embarrassed by a depleted treasury, rendering it necessary that every expenditure should be reduced to the lowest possible limit.

In addition to this, long servile submission had so dwarfed the intellect of the masses of the colored people that the desire for knowledge, for mental, or moral improvement had so far ceased to exist that to inaugurate any system of general education became at least problematical; at least it must be attended with unremitting patience and labor. We have found minds more active and responsive than we anticipated.

Of course the first thing to be done was to provide for their physical necessities, and, thrown upon their own resources as a result of the war, comparatively without food or clothing, in the midst of a people almost as destitute as themselves, and subsequently rendered more so by the repeated failures of crops, they exhausted for their simple support

nearly all the earlier appropriations of this Bureau, which otherwise might have been expended in establishing a more general and thorough system of education than we now have.

I had at first, in order to carry on this work, to depend largely, directly upon what was received from irregular funds, abandoned and confiscated personal property, and indirectly upon charitable donations of benevolent societies and individuals in other and more prosperous sections of the country.

With all these embarrassments, and many others which retarded the work on every hand, not least among which was the determined and for a time uncompromising opposition of public sentiment in the South, I think the results attained within this comparatively brief period have far exceeded the expectations of the most sanguine.

Another serious embarrassment which beset us was the great tendency of the colored people to forsake the rural districts and flock to large cities and the larger towns. This was no doubt in great measure owing to the feeling of insecurity in returning to and remaining at their former homes. To so great an extent did this prevail that I had to resort to the most energetic measures to induce them to leave the cities for farms and plantations where their labor was needed and where they could earn a livelihood.

In order to secure fair wages and prevent the ignorant Freedmen from being imposed upon, I instituted the simple contract system. This system was adopted in the face of considerable opposition from men North and South, and of all parties, many of whom thought there must be some transition system—a kind of serfdom or peonage established, as a stepping stone to a complete freeholding citizenship. I resisted every proposition of this kind, and have been earnestly sustained by the several Secretaries of War, up to the

present time. In fact I believe the present order, industry, frugality, and thorough organization of labor among the Freedmen, are due to the prompt establishment of the contract system, and the aid rendered in executing it, by officers and agents of the Freedmen's Bureau. Under it, they were not only secured in compensation for their labor, but enabled to acquire to a great extent, a practical knowledge of business. Under it, there have been over 10,000 from this District alone, furnished with places to work in different parts of the country, where most of them have remained and secured for themselves permanent homes.

From the best information I can obtain not more than 300 of this number have returned again seeking employment; the only expense to the Government being for the transportation of those who were not provided with it by their employers, and were unable to pay for it themselves.

History fails to furnish us an example of a race elevated from such a degree of degradation to citizenship, with but four years of education, quietly exercising the rights and privileges of freemen, without arrogance or presumption.

We have now in healthy and prosperous operation 4572 schools of all kinds (Day, Night, and Sabbath,) with 8422 Teachers and 224,060 Pupils. This does not include the June report which will show a considerable increase, nor does it include the female Industrial schools at different points where it was deemed practicable to establish them. To make them self-sustaining as far as possible, a large portion of the clothing required in the hospitals and asylums has been made up at the schools.

From the commencement, my agents have endeavored to encourage a desire among the colored people to establish and sustain in every community, a thorough system of Sabbath Schools. This effort has met with most satisfactory results. The schools are largely attended

by colored people of all ages, male and female, many of whom could not leave their labor to attend at other times. These schools are conducted to a large extent by young ladies who are employed as teachers in the week-day Schools, thus forming a most powerful auxiliary to the regular system, and inculcating a healthy condition of morals among the colored people.

Viewing this subject from a financial stand point alone, I consider that this work in the past few years, however, imperfectly organized or incomplete in operation, has forcibly exemplified the known fact, that the intellectual culture and growth of a people add more to the material wealth of a country than its mines of gold. . . . From indolent and irresponsible slaves, a few years of imperfect education has transformed thousands into producers and proprietors, familiarizing them with the manner of doing business, enabling very many to negotiate credits, and carry on large business transactions successfully, leasing and reopening plantations which had been abandoned or neglected by their original owners who were unwilling to attempt the risk of carrying on this business with free labor. These plantations otherwise would have remained barren and unproductive, the result of this is that last year the cotton crop brought more money into the South than any previous year, and when we take into contemplation the fact that almost or quite two-thirds of this cotton was produced by Freedmen, who had received sufficient education in the management of business to enable them to carry on and manage the operations of their plantations as proprietors, thus returning to the Treasury directly or indirectly, all the money which has been expended through this Bureau for their education and the support of the indigent, with over 100 per cent interest, we must see that the investment has been most properly and profitably made.

Individual officers and agents have been accused of corruption, taking bribes, betraying the interests of the Freedmen, and of doing more to disorganize than to organize the industry of the South. This is doubtless true to a very small extent. The great majority have been men of integrity and high standing. The Assistants number among them such men as Generals Schofield, Canby, Reynolds, Swaine, Saxton, Brown, Fisk, Ruger, Sprague, Scott, Gregory, Carlin; and the subordinate officers and agents generally, whose record is without a blemish, even their enemies being their judges. The flaws in the system are observable, but its abundant success shows that the flaws have been much exaggerated, surely that they were not fatal.

TEACHING THE FREEDMEN HOW TO TEACH.

From "The Independent."

At Hampton, Virginia, some two miles or thereabouts form Fortress Monroe, within sight of the spot where the "Monitor" and the "Merrimac" fought their famous duel, on the ground where stood the hospital-barracks of McClellan's army and Grant's, and where fifteen thousand sick and wounded were lying at one time, there may now be seen a large farm and a long range of somewhat low and straggling buildings, which have a history belonging to them, and which symbolize assuredly a great future. The institution to which the ground and the buildings belong is the offspring of the late war; indeed, it might almost be said that the war was waged to enable men to found such an institution. It has been often declared that the object and end of the war was to interpret the Constitution of the United States, and establish an authentic definition, of its meaning. It was, indeed, to obtain a positive and just definition of the position of the negro under the Constitution of the United States; and this institu-

es, and on the application of the school authorities we commission them and send them to the field. They receive from the public authorities compensation for six months, and we pay them for the remainder and thus secure northern christian teachers, and give not only a good school in itself, but a *model* school for the next ten years.

In states where the system is less advanced, of course, the work is more necessary and more expensive. For four states we have to assume the entire burden, getting what we can from the Bureau and people to supplement the benevolence of northern piety.

In estimating the value of these state school systems, we must always keep in mind that they are exotics, carried bodily from the North by northern men, and that they are not yet accepted by the southern people, and that the southern people as a whole are by no means willing to give them a fair trial, even if they were competent to it. But they are not only out of sympathy with them but entirely unable to comprehend and work them, and yet will inevitably have the management before long of their own schools and systems. In some states this is already a fact, and in others it will not long be delayed. So that we have this anomaly in the school affairs throughout the south,—a better *system* than *practice*, with the probability, almost certainty, that the system will go down further and more rapidly than the practice will come up. Tennessee is a melancholy instance in point,—a bad example which the other states will be very likely to follow.

In the face of such a probability, our schools will be more than ever important, and the presence of our teachers, and their demonstration of the possibilities of the system, will help stay up the public mind from the impending relapse toward barbarism.

It will be easy to see the relation of our Normal Schools to this unsettled state of things, and how neces-

sary they are to supply a want which every day grows more imperative.

Whatever party directs affairs in the South, there are to be sooner or later, public schools. The teachers are to be largely of the native population. Will not every native teacher properly prepared be a great power for good?

THE FREEDMEN'S SAVINGS BANKS,

BY GEN. O. O. HOWARD.

One of the most substantial proofs of the prosperity and thrift of the Freedmen is exhibited in the very successful establishment, operation and growth of the Freedmen's Saving and Trust Company, the branches of which at this time extend through the greater portion of the Southern States. Just prior to the organization of the Freedmen's Bureau, several enterprising and philanthropic men, I believe under the inspiration of Rev. J. W. Alvord's indefatigable spirit, conceived the necessity and advantage of a system of Savings Banks, wherein the Freedmen could deposit their money in small sums—such amounts as they could spare from their daily wants—wherein it could be kept secure and used in such a manner as to return a reasonable interest.

However wise and beneficent this system—its practical workings were feeble and inadequate to the demand, owing to the limited opportunities of the incorporators to popularize it with the masses. I found in the summer of 1865, that it had its principal office in New York, with but two branches, one at Beaufort, S. C., and the other at Norfolk, Va., and they doing but a comparatively limited business, while in other parts of the South, the more provident among the freed people were seeking to deposit for safe-keeping their small savings with the officers and agents of the Bureau. This desire arose, doubtless, from the distrust which these people felt in their own ability to manage properly, or even safely hold, their

earnings against the seductions of others, and against the temptation to spend them. Further, the banking institutions in that section of the country did not furnish facilities for their deposits, there being but a limited number of Savings Banks in the South, and they only in the larger cities, and too often in unfriendly hands.

I saw at once that the practice of my officers and agents in receiving these deposits, would at best necessarily result in confusion and disappointment, as it was impossible for them, owing to their numerous and often perplexing duties, to do this work systematically and satisfactorily, and the result could only be the safe-keeping of their money with no other profit to the depositors. In view of these circumstances, with the added liability to fraud where the agent was not honest, I felt free to avail myself as Commissioner, of the means offered by this system for meeting this want. The friends of the Freedmen residing in Washington interested themselves in the plan, and aided Mr. Alvord and myself, in securing the removal of the principal office from New York to the Capital. The procurement of branches at different points over the Southern States where they appeared to be greatly needed soon followed. To facilitate this, in some cases I allowed agents of the Bureau to act as cashiers; in some places I furnished them clerical assistance and paid the rent of the office. In all cases, however, where I assisted them in this way, I required the officer of the bank to discharge the additional duty of disbursing bounties to colored soldiers. Under this management, this system has grown from comparatively small beginnings, to its present extraordinary proportions. There are now, beside the principal office in Washington, branches at the following points, viz: Augusta, Ga., Baltimore, Md., Beaufort, S. C., Charleston, S. C., Huntsville, Ala., Jacksonville, Fla., Louisville,

Ky., Memphis, Tenn., Mobile, Ala., Nashville, Tenn., Newbern, N. C., New Orleans, La., New York City, Norfolk, Va., Raleigh, N. C., Richmond, Va., Savannah, Ga., Talahassee, Fla., Vicksburg, Miss., Washington, D. C., Wilmington, N. C., Chattanooga, Tenn., Martinsburg, Va., Macon, Ga., and St. Louis, Mo. The following will show their aggregate current business:

Deposits for the month of July,	\$411,672.22
Drafts " " "	346,543.84
Gain in July, - - -	\$55,128.88
Total amount due depositors, -	\$1,885,279.46
" of Deposits, - - -	9,116,444.97
" of drafts, - - -	7,881,165.51

A large portion of these drafts have been for homesteads and other important purchases. At the time this system was incorporated, the public debt furnished, and for a long time continued to furnish, a convenient, profitable and secure investment for all the deposits. At first, owing to the very few who had money to deposit, this afforded sufficient latitude to cover any and all increase which might occur. But the growth and successful operation of this system during the past five years, I think will justify us in the conclusion that a much wider latitude should be given, affording equal security and much larger profits to depositors. I hope during the next session of Congress, this matter will be properly presented. I have no doubt the necessary legislation will then be secured to place this banking company on the same footing with other banking institutions chartered by the different States. So much could be done at least, as would allow accumulated deposits to be invested in first mortgage bonds and other equally good securities under chartered limitation.

By properly extending the charter and increasing the capacity of the bank in its operations, the depositor may be equally secure, and the entire volume of deposits rendered available, in increasing the working capital of the bank, and

enabling it to pay a higher rate of interest to its depositors.

I think the high character, standing and energy of the men who have been engaged from the commencement in this work, whose united efforts and perseverance have brought it to its present importance, is a good guarantee that the practical enlargement of its powers would meet with a like satisfactory result. While the Government was issuing bonds, and before they became a commodity of merchandize for speculation, the amounts accumulating from deposits could be invested in them without risk of depreciation. Since that time, they have assumed a market value, which, of course, is constantly changing, governed entirely by the great commercial law of demand and supply, and thus the operation and character of the investment is measurably changed.—*Congregationalist.*

MARYLAND.

The following is from a colored Teacher:

PRINCE FREDERICK, ———, 1869.

GRATITUDE.

I was glad to get the box, for we needed books very much in our Sabbath School, and could not well do without them. Please accept my hearty thanks together with the humble petitions of the Freedmen, who never forget at their meetings to ask a blessing for the Missionary Association and for all who are working for the good of mankind. We pray that you may be encouraged to labor on in the good and noble work, and that the seed you have sown may spring up and bear fruit in golden plenty.

EXHIBITION.

I must tell you about our exhibition and festival which took place on the 17th and 18th inst. The house was beautifully decorated; the walls were festooned with cedar, the windows decked with holly, and between each

center of the room hung the flag and over it was the word "Progress" made in cedar, with "Persevere" and "Advance" on each side. A stage also was erected.

The exercises consisted of prayer by the pastor, followed by chants, recitations, dialogues, spelling and definitions by the first class, choruses, etc.; fifty-nine in all, which occupied two hours and a half. Seventy-five pupils were present who did remarkably well. The house was crowded and all seemed pleased.

FESTIVAL.

At the close of the exhibition, a table was laid extending the length of the room, laden with "good things" of all kinds—chicken, oysters, cake, fruits, lemonades, raspberry syrup, etc.

Everything passed off pleasantly, and our efforts were crowned with success; the proceeds amounted to \$70.06, which will be used for school and church purposes.

Yours respectfully,

M. L. HOY.

GEORGIA.

PRACTICAL WORKING.

We have frequently referred to the importance of our higher educational institutions in the South. We give below a notice copied from an Atlanta paper showing their practical working.

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY, ATLANTA, GA. NORMAL AND ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS.

The first term of the Normal and Academic Departments of this Institution will begin Wednesday, Oct 13th, 1869.

The Academic department will have a three years' course. The Junior and Middle Classes will be organized this term, and will pursue the usual Academic studies, including Latin, Greek, Algebra, Geometry, History, Natural Philosophy, &c. Those wishing to fit for College, and to pursue a thorough course of study, can enter this department.

For admission to the regular Normal Department, pupils of a lower grade of

dured, and of the educational and moral advancement of the Freedmen. The necessity was urged of being ready for the emancipation in Cuba and Brazil, which were predicted before another annual meeting; and 'Africa,' said the report, 'pleads that some of her sons and daughters may be returned to her as missionaries and teachers, to aid in the regeneration which she waits to see.'

SPEAKERS AND SPEECHES.
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"Gen. O. O. HOWARD, Mr. WARE of Atlanta, JOHN G. FEE of Kentucky, and CHAPLAIN FRENCH of South Carolina, are all men from the front, men who have emphatically borne the heat and burden of the day. It was particularly refreshing to see the healthy, happy face of Mr. Fee, and to get a chat with him about the old days when Kentucky mobs used to assail him and threaten his life, and it was good to hear him speak, and note how much life and vigor are still left to him."

"Gen. O. O. Howard, reviewed in a simple but intensely interesting narrative, the history and the work of the Freedmen's Bureau; I should like to photograph him for my readers, as he appeared during its delivery and as he will long be photographed on my own memory. But I cannot. I can only say as many others do, and will say: God bless him, and gird him with strength to take charge of another, and as noble, Bureau."

"Mr. WARE of Atlanta, gave a most interesting and cheering account of the progress made in the State of Georgia, under his own eyes, during his educational superintendency of three years. The narration was so clear, calm, and evidently free from exaggeration that it could hardly fail to carry a conviction of reality even to a prejudiced mind. He traced the work in the city of Atlanta, from the taking of the city by Sherman's troops; and the opening of a

single school in a mere shanty, to its present flourishing condition of regularly graded schools, occupying good, substantial schoolhouses, in the midst of which an incipient university now rears its head; from barbarism to the alphabet, from the alphabet to the normal school and college, all within four years. Verily, this is progress, if progress ever was in this world."

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HOSPITALITY.

"Rev. T. E. Monroe, pastor of the Congregational Church, where the meeting was held, and which, by the way, is one of the finest church edifices in the

State, and a most substantial monument to the liberality of the citizens of this beautiful city, as Chairman of the Committee on Hospitality, has succeeded admirably in providing for the entertainment of the members of the Association and other visitors."

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"Let us all kneel as we pray," said the Christian soldier. So on their knees they fell. John G. Fee, a veteran hero in our work, delivered from prisons and from death in times ago, has come to jubilee. Like a giant in the faith, with soul too full for utterance he rolls off his burdens at the foot of the throne. So on they prayed till the hour was spent; and when we came away, as Bunyan's pilgrims descended the delectable mountain, from whence they had seen the Celestial City, or as the disciples came from the mount of transfiguration, with "Jesus only," so we came down from that mount of God, imbued with a spirit so heavenly, that until the spell was broken it seemed a sacrilege to

enter upon the duties allotted for the day.

CHEERING.

Under this heading the *Memphis Post* speaks of the change in the prospects and feelings at the South.

* * * "But there is a change. Better counsels, better feeling and better action prevail. It cannot be doubted that the sentiment which favors peace and quiet, while it condemns outrage and violence is in the ascendant. The croakers have ceased to go about the streets with raven voices predicting disaster. Hope has taken the place of despondency, and almost everybody is looking into a future full of glorious promise. There is an unusual enlivenment in all departments of business; there is great attention attracted towards all material advancement. Improvements in modes of agriculture, improved labor-saving machines are eagerly examined, and, if approved, readily adopted. Railroads are projected in every direction, and their construction pushed with energy and activity. Another notable sign, and an excellent one, is the attention which is given to agricultural fairs. We need only look in every newspaper we pick up to see palpable evidences of this; the telegraphic columns are full of it; the editorial and local departments are also crowded with matter pertaining to the same subject. The truth is, the Southern people are but just beginning to appreciate the marvelous capabilities and the magnificent destiny of their favored region. Slavery long sat upon its bosom like a paralyzing incubus, and the people only dreamed that horrid dream of multiplying negroes and wearing out land forever. Now they see what a great thing the war did for them in removing this great evil from them, and leaving them free to march forward unimpeded to their glorious future."

THE NEW YORK AND BROOKLYN CONFERENCE.

The recent meeting of the New York and Brooklyn (Congregational) Association was followed, in the afternoon by a conference of churches, which entered into an earnest discussion of the duty of the American churches to the Chinese in America. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Resolved, that we heartily sympathise with every effort now being made to Christianize the Chinese population of our land, and our prayers are with all engaged in such labor.

American Missionary.

NEW YORK, JULY, 1869.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

For the terms of this Magazine, the direction to be given to letters and packages, and notices relative to Missionary Boxes, Agents, etc., see 2nd and 4th pages of the cover.

OUR BOSTON ANNIVERSARY.

Anniversaries in New York are dying or dead. In Boston they "still live." Our readers will find an account elsewhere in this paper, of our recent meeting in the wide-awake capital of New England.

MR. DAVID MACRAE.

It was the pleasure of many of our readers, North and South, to make the acquaintance of this very intelligent Scotch gentleman during his visit last year to this country.

While here, he was much interested in the welfare of the Freedmen, and obtained extensive information respecting their character, wants, and prospects. To all who know him, and to others, it will be a gratification to read the account we give in another column of the presentation he has kindly made to ecclesiastical bodies in Scotland of the work of this Association among the Freedmen.

NOT ASHAMED OF COLOR OR CURL.

JOHN M. LANGSTON, Esq., the colored orator, in a speech at the laying of the corner stone of Atlanta University, speaking of his race, said: "he prayed that fifty years might elapse before they lost one curl in the hair or one shade less of their duskiness, that they might prove their title as equals." That is manly. Let them fight out the battle under the color that God gave them, and thus vindicate Him and the com-

mon brotherhood of man. See more of Mr. Langston's address in another column.

NO CASTE.

In Gen. Howard's recent speech at Hartford, he thus humorously vindicates the Freedmen's Bureau and the Howard University from the imputation of the spirit of caste.

An objection is sometimes made to the Bureau, and it is asked, "Why don't you educate the whites?" We do not make a distinction of color; a white child can enter any school in the south. In the Howard University at Washington, there are several white students, and they get along as well as the rest. (Laughter.) The schools are conducted in the same way that schools in the north are, and will compare favorably with them.

PERSONAL.

GEN. O. O. HOWARD.

At a meeting in behalf of this Association, held recently in Hartford, Ct., some interesting statements were made by Sec. Whipple and by the General himself in regard to the call of the latter to the head of the Freedmen's Bureau and to his experience before and since.

SEC. WHIPPLE'S REMARKS.

In May, 1861, General Butler issued his famous order relative to "contrabands," and in the fall of that year, the American Missionary Association held communication with General Butler, and soon after schools for the education of the Freedmen were established in Virginia. The work then spread as rapidly as our armies gained victories. Finally, in 1865, the Bureau bill passed in Congress, the Association using its strongest endeavors in that direction. The speaker then spoke of the difficulties which arose by the death of Mr. Lincoln and succession of Mr. Johnson. The latter on being approached, threw the whole responsibility on to the Secretary of war. Mr. Stanton was then seen: he was heartily in favor of it, and in a few days the Bureau was es-

established, and General Howard appointed at the head of it.

GENERAL HOWARD

was the next speaker. He said that Dr. Bushnell's sermon on God's having a plan in every man's life, made a deep impression upon him, and he never read it but once—ever since, he had had the conviction that God had a plan in his life. When he was a boy, his father brought home a colored boy who became his companion, and he had thought that, in the providence of God, that association was the cause of his *want* of prejudice, which a good many people in the North do not feel. In college he encountered prejudices; and again in West Point, where there were many from the South, he met the strongest prejudices against the colored race, and, on that account at one time, nearly all the cadets refused to speak with him, because he had none of their prejudices.

After leaving West Point he was stationed in Florida, and he related some of his first experiences in that slave country. He received the impression there that Northern men who went to the South, and went back upon their education, became the hardest of slave owners. He gave an account of the scenes which occurred during the march of Sherman's army, the light wing of which he commanded. At Fayetteville, N. C., 8,500 refugees were turned off from the army column, two-thirds of whom were negroes. This was the time when the subject of establishing the Bureau was being discussed. When he arrived in Richmond with the army, he received a dispatch from Secretary Stanton to come to Washington at once. He went, and the secretary asked him if he would take charge of the Bureau, and intimated that it was Mr. Lincoln's request before he died, that he (Howard) should take that position. He had not then read the law; but he decided to accept. For five months the Bureau kept seventy-five thousand people in the South from starvation. One-third of these were whites. He spoke of the prejudices which had existed, and which

exist yet, concerning the colored people. In traveling from Washington to Maine in company with three colored men, he had to fight his way over every railroad line to get seats for the black men. The prejudices are, however, gradually breaking down.

RIGHT INSTITUTIONS THE GREAT WANT OF THE SOUTH.

A good deal of effort in the South, at the present time, is as barren of result as rain upon the sand. Institutions are the only permanent forces in society. Whatever fails of that is evanescent. Whitfield, vastly the superior of John Wesley, as an eloquent preacher, left only his name to the generations that survived him, Wesley, on the other hand, left the Methodist church.

Blaize Pascal, from his retreat at Port Royal, sent forth those letters against the Jesuits which set all Europe laughing and cursing in turn. But Pascal died, his letters were shelved as a curious antique, while the Jesuits as an institution survive, and carry their influence around the world.

And yet many think that itinerants rushing through the South, scattering books here and there, can save it. There could not be a more idle dream. When the men are out of sight, and the books are thrown aside, their influence is ended. Only institutions carry on the thoughts of men, and the lessons of books, and repeat them from generation to generation.

It is vain, therefore, to think of correcting the public sentiment of the South by any process that does not flower into institutions. The trouble with most Southerners now, is that their institutions are leading them astray. The church, the school, and the press, which, in the main, create and control public sentiment, are wrong in their moral instructions. The pulpit brought the sanctions of religion to human chattelhood, and is responsible for the madness of the Southern people on

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CHEERING.

Under this heading the *Memphis Post* speaks of the change in the prospects and feelings at the South.

* * * "But there is a change. Better counsels, better feeling and better action prevail. It cannot be doubted that the sentiment which favors peace and quiet, while it condemns outrage and violence is in the ascendant. The croakers have ceased to go about the streets with raven voices predicting disaster. Hope has taken the place of despondency, and almost everybody is looking into a future full of glorious promise. There is an unusual enlivenment in all departments of business; there is great attention attracted towards all material advancement. Improvements in modes of agriculture, improved labor-saving machines are eagerly examined, and, if approved, readily adopted. Railroads are projected in every direction, and their construction pushed with energy and activity. Another notable sign, and an excellent one, is the attention which is given to agricultural fairs. We need only look in every newspaper we pick up to see palpable evidences of this; the telegraphic columns are full of it; the editorial and local departments are also crowded with matter pertaining to the same subject. The truth is, the Southern people are but just beginning to appreciate the marvelous capabilities and the magnificent destiny of their favored region. Slavery long sat upon its bosom like a paralyzing incubus, and the people only dreamed that horrid dream of multiplying negroes and wearing out land forever. Now they see what a great thing the war did for them in removing this great evil from them, and leaving them free to march forward unimpeded to their glorious future."

THE NEW YORK AND BROOKLYN CONFERENCE.

The recent meeting of the New York and Brooklyn (Congregational) Association was followed, in the afternoon by a conference of churches, which entered into an earnest discussion of the duty of the American churches to the Chinese in America. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Resolved, that we heartily sympathise with every effort now being made to Christianize the Chinese population of our land, and our prayers are with all engaged in such labor.